Stem cell research remains the greatest hope of one day finding cures for diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Diabetes. As Americans we should be pro-science and pro-cures. That means federal funding for all stem cell research—embryonic, adult or amniotic. Earlier today, I was proud to join my colleagues in a bipartisan vote to pass the stem cell bill through the House. Click here to watch my floor statement in support of the bill . As a strong supporter of stem cell research and an original co-sponsor of the H.R. 3, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to pass this legislation. I also want to recognize three outstanding Chicago-area researchers who are working right now to find cures using embryonic stem cell research:

Dr. John A. Kessler, Benjamin Boshes Professor and Chair, Northwestern University
Dr. Kessler's laboratory focuses on the biology of embryonic stem cells and neural stem cells. Dr. Kessler is studying what biological mechanisms lead embryonic stem cells to differentiate into the various cell types within the human body. He is specifically interested in developing ways to make embryonic stem cells differentiate into cells to treat spinal injury and stroke.

Dr. Mary J.C. Hendrix, President and Scientific Director, Children's Memorial Research Center
Dr. Mary Hendrix's laboratory at Children's Memorial Hospital focuses on understanding why cancer cells spread. By knowing what genes cause the metastasis of cancer, Dr. Hendrix seeks to discover how to turn the genes off and prevent metastasis. Research using embryonic cells would allow researchers to test their theories developed with animal models on human cancer cells.

Dr. Robert D. Goldman, Stephen Walter Ranson Professor and Chair, Northwestern University
Dr. Goldman's laboratory uses embryonic stem cell research to explore the role the structure of cells plays in ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease.